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June 1, 2006

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station, Second Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

**RE: Western Massachusetts Electric Company Semi-Annual Double Pole Report,
D.T.E. 03-87**

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

Western Massachusetts Electric Company ("WMECO") hereby submits its Semi-Annual Double Pole Report. This report covers the six-month time period from November 1, 2005 until May 1, 2006. On May 5, 2006, Verizon Massachusetts submitted the data, which is the basis of the numbers summarized in this report, to the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") on behalf of the other pole owners. Enclosed for filing are the original and nine copies of this status report.

In its November 28, 2003 report relative to a plan to eliminate the backlog of double utility poles within the Commonwealth, pursuant to Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2003, Section 110, the Department required pole owners to submit detailed plans for eliminating the backlog of double poles as soon as reasonably practicable. WMECO, as a pole owner, filed its plan for eliminating the backlog of double poles on January 27, 2004, and has filed Semi-Annual Double Pole Reports on October 28, 2004, April 1, 2005, and December 1, 2005. WMECO also provided yearly double pole progress and strategy for pole management in its 2005 and 2006 Annual Reliability Filings. The most recent was filed with the Department on December 30, 2005.

In the period since its last semi-annual report, WMECO has continued to place strong emphasis on the removal of double poles in the cities and towns that it serves. An element of this is the effort concentrated on ensuring the accuracy of the information in the PLM System. WMECO continues to meet with Verizon Massachusetts on a monthly basis to discuss work-related issues, including double poles. WMECO has not had any significant issues involving laggard licensees. Discussions have been held with licensees regarding transfer of their facilities, and the licensees have been cooperative. Since the last semi-annual report, WMECO concentrated on reducing the number of transfers of its electric facilities from double poles. In addition, WMECO has placed increased emphasis on the removal of double poles that are ready to remove.

WMECO continues to utilize a contractor capable of removing large numbers of double poles in cases where there are a large number of double poles concentrated in one area that are ready to remove. WMECO intends to continue this practice as a way of being able to remove double poles once all transfers have been completed.

In the management of double poles, WMECO believes the strategy of completing its own transfers and removing all poles that are in a ready to remove status will be the most effective means of reducing the number of double poles within its service territory. WMECO finds it cannot provide an express deadline for the removal of all backlog double poles because it does not have control of the transfers that must be accomplished before the poles it has responsibility for can be removed, nor does it have knowledge of when these necessary transfers will be completed. WMECO will aggressively remove double poles once all required transfers have been completed.

In the process of compiling the statistics for this report, it was discovered that some of the poles listed in WMECO's December 1, 2005 semi-annual report were not WMECO's responsibility. This created a slight variance in the number of both backlog and new poles. This occurred in towns where both WMECO and NGrid have pole responsibilities. The towns where this occurs are Erving, Hancock, Shutesbury, and Wilbraham. The present status of double pole transfers and remediation in WMECO's service territory is shown in the table below:

WMECO Double Pole Status as of May 1, 2006

WMECO to Shift	Others to Shift	Verizon MA to Shift	Ready to Remove Verizon	Ready to Remove-WMECO	Total Double Poles
84	131	790	34	82	1121

WMECO has analyzed the state-wide Double Pole Status Grid and extracted the information for the double poles located within the cities and towns that it serves. A summary of the extracted information is provided in the tables below:

WMECO Double Pole Backlog Summary:

	Backlog Total Poles	Backlog Remaining Poles	Backlog Removed Poles	Backlog % Poles Removed
Totals:	1125	354	771	68.53%

WMECO Double Pole New Pole Summary:

	New Poles at Start	New Poles Added	New Poles Removed	Remaining New Poles > 90 Days	New Poles Remaining at End
Totals:	874	105	212	706	767

WMECO Double Pole Summary Statistics:

	Backlog Remaining Poles	New Poles Remaining at End	Total Poles Remaining
Totals:	354	767	1121

In conclusion, the PLM System is proving to be an effective tool in managing and facilitating double pole removal. WMECO is committed to work toward the elimination of the double pole backlog in the municipalities that it serves. Please contact me or John Tulloch ((413) 499-9051, or email: tullojs@nu.com) should you have any questions in regard to this filing.

Very truly yours,

Donald M. Bishop
Manager, Regulatory Policy - Massachusetts